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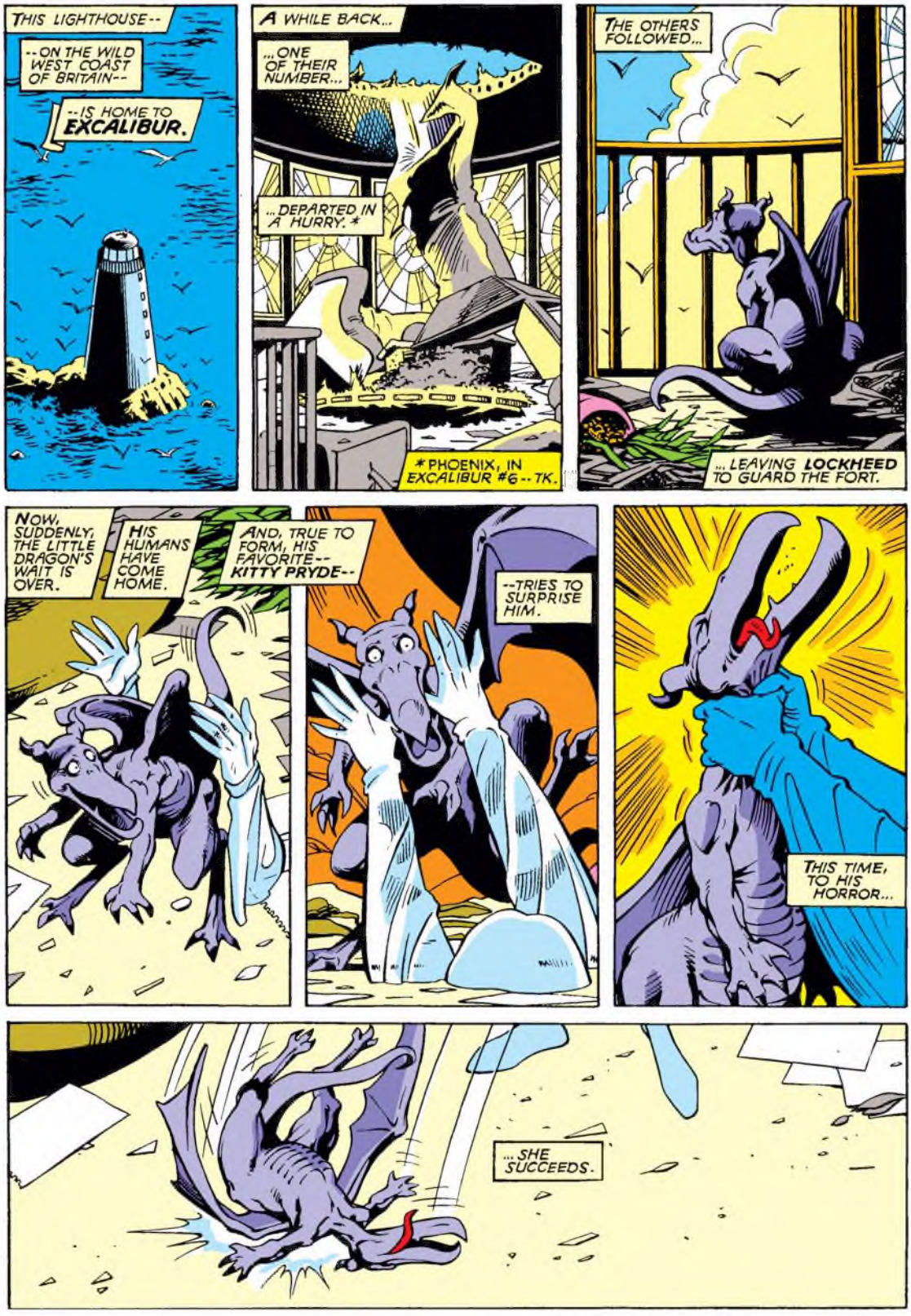
EXCALIBUR™

ACCORDING TO THIS GUIDE-BOOK, DEAR, THEY'RE BRITAIN'S *GREATEST HEROES!*

EXCALIB

CAPTAIN BRITAIN

Alan Davis/Neary


THIS LIGHTHOUSE--
--ON THE WILD WEST COAST OF BRITAIN--
--IS HOME TO EXCALIBUR.
A WHILE BACK...
...ONE OF THEIR NUMBER...
...DEPARTED IN A HURRY.*
*PHOENIX, IN EXCALIBUR #6--TK.
THE OTHERS FOLLOWED...
...LEAVING LOCKHEED TO GUARD THE FORT.
NOW, SUDDENLY, THE LITTLE DRAGON'S WAIT IS OVER.
HIS HUMANS HAVE COME HOME.
AND, TRUE TO FORM, HIS FAVORITE--KITTY PRYDE--
--TRIES TO SURPRISE HIM.
THIS TIME, TO HIS HORROR...
...SHE SUCCEEDS.

STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE TWO-EDGED SWORD!
YOU DID WELL, SHADOWCAT.
LET US HOPE THE REST OF OUR MISSION GOES AS SMOOTHLY.
FOR SHAME, MY DEAR HAUPTMANN ENGLANDE.
WHERE IS YOUR ZEST FOR BATTLE?
HERE WE ARE, THE REICH'S FOREMOST BAND OF WARRIORS, WITH A WHOLE NEW WORLD TO CONQUER.
I, FOR ONE, AM OVER-JOYED!
YOU CAN AFFORD TO BE, NIGHTCRAWLER.
BUT I AM IN COMMAND.
OUR PRIMARY DUTY IS THE RESCUE OF THE REICHSMINISTER OF GENETICS, LADY MOIRA MacTAGGERT.
AFTERWARDS, PERHAPS, WE MAY... INDULGE OURSELVES.
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ALAN DAVIS PENCILER
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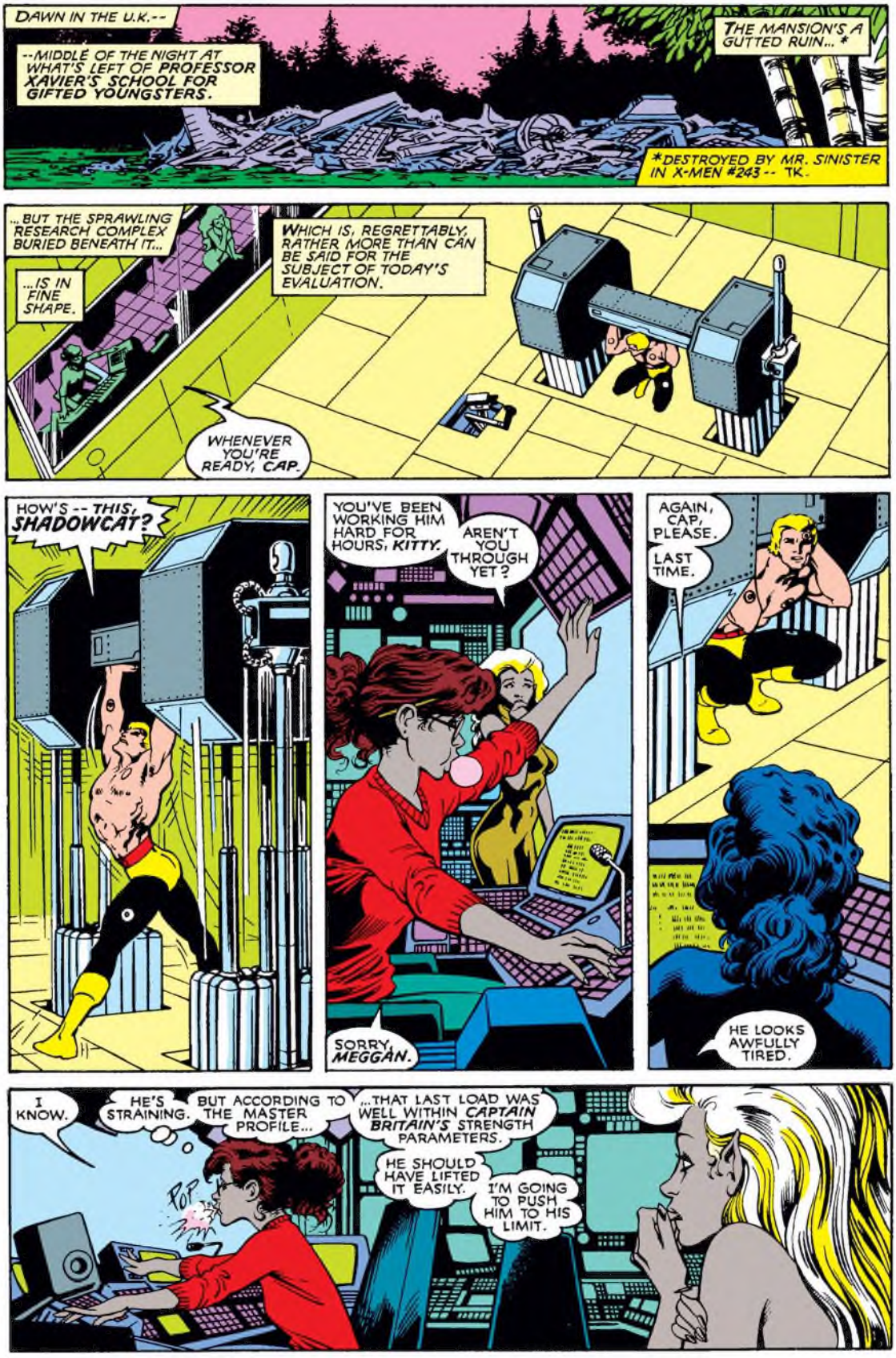
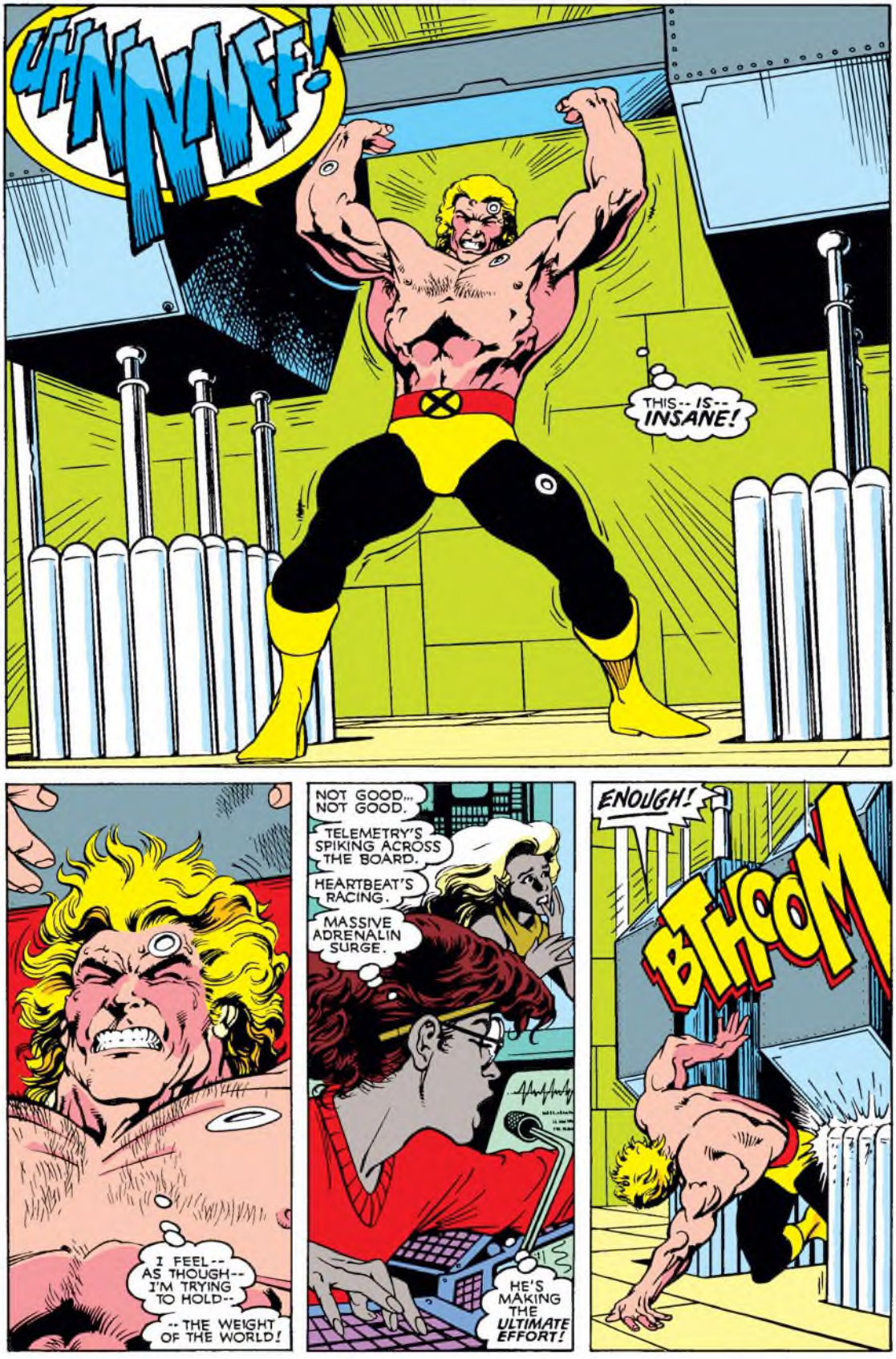
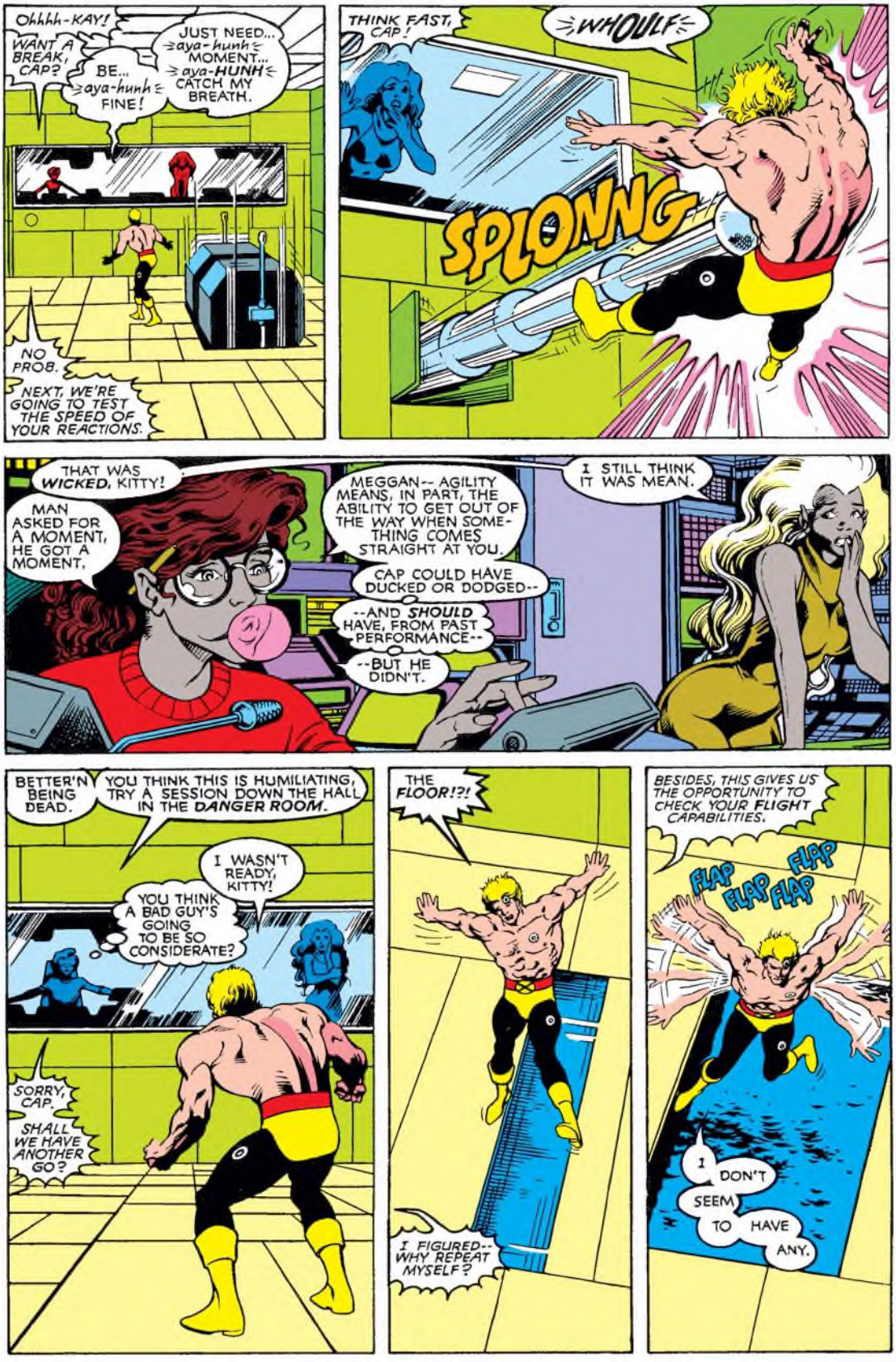
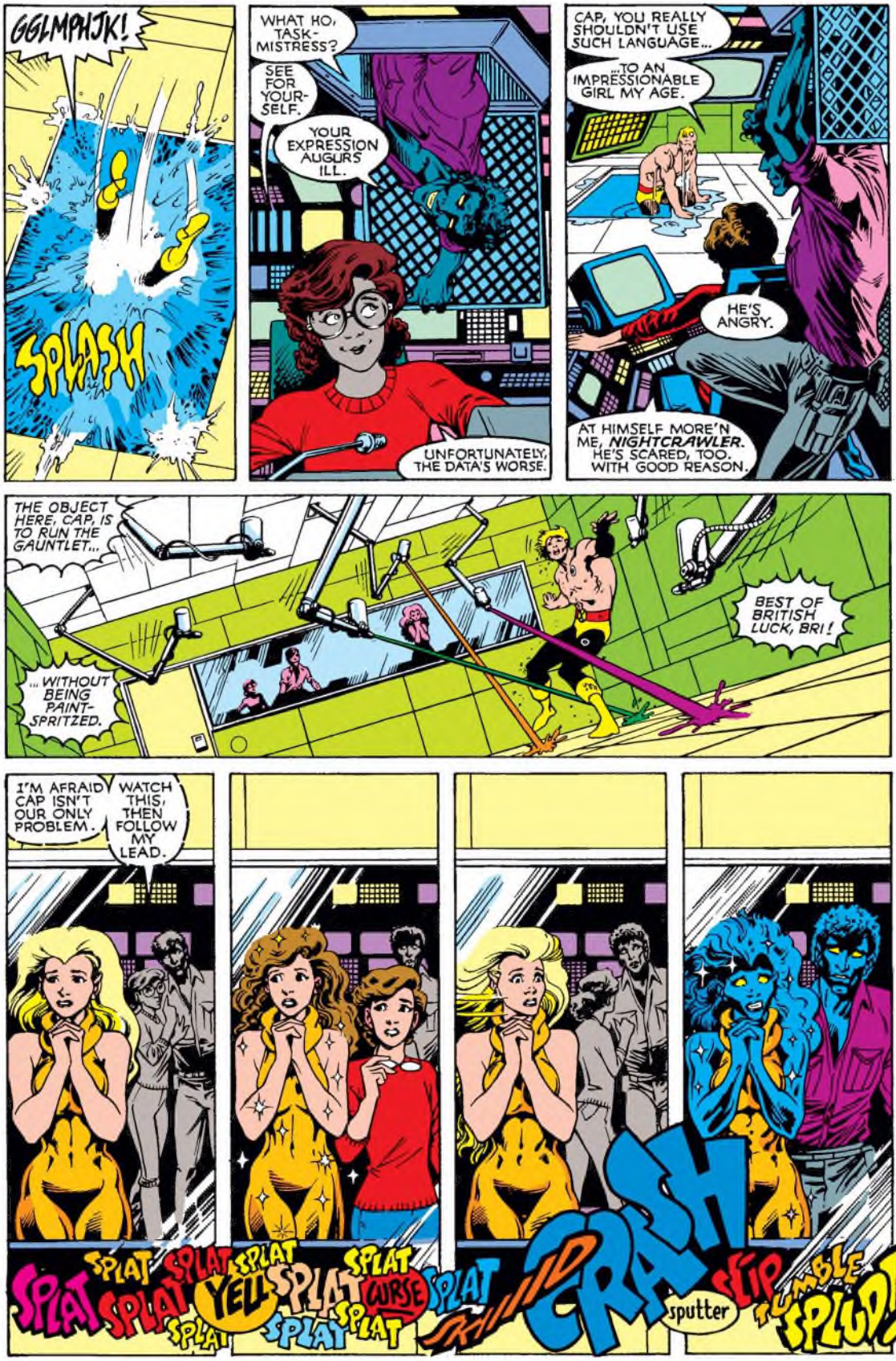
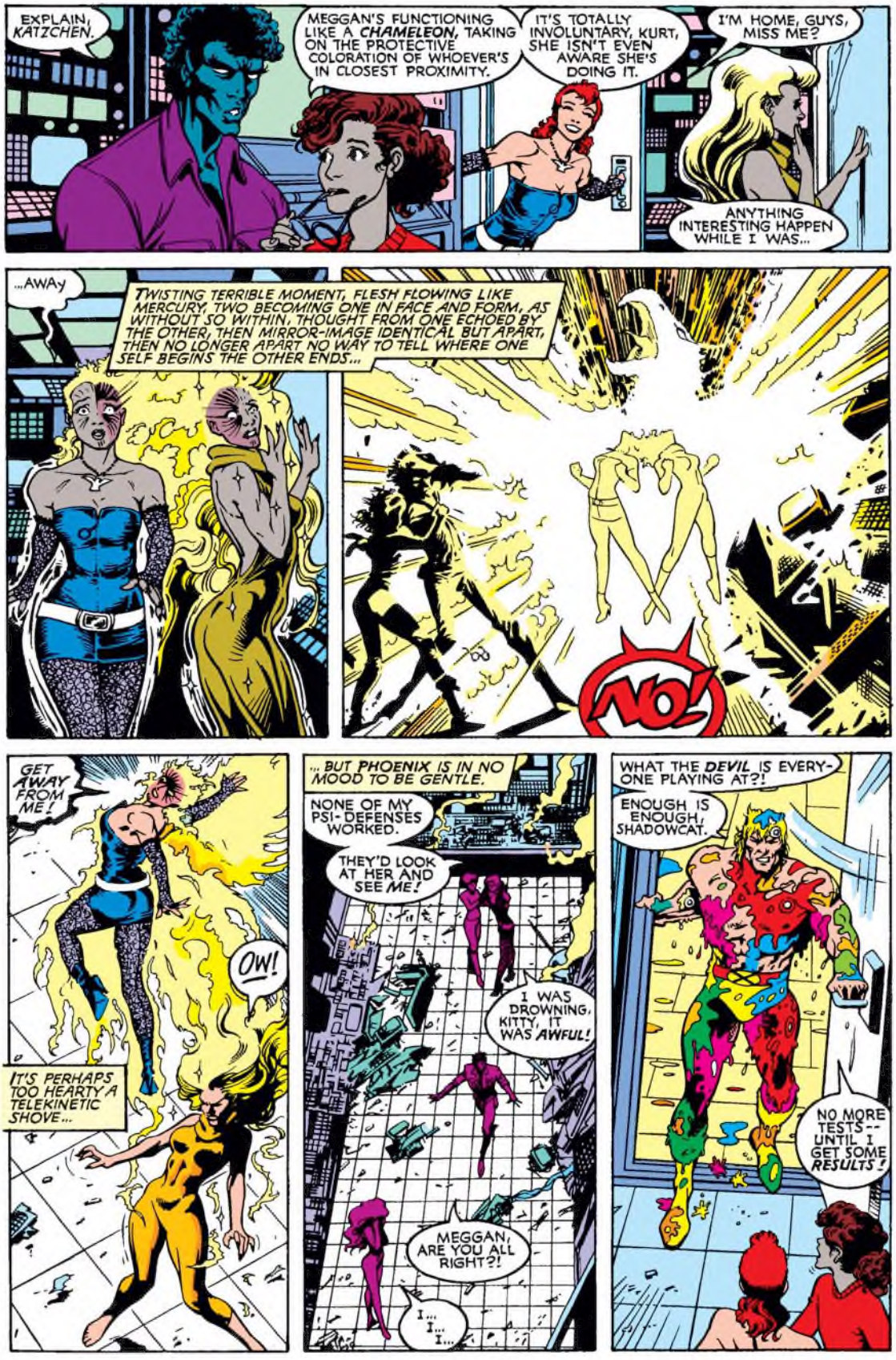

DAWN IN THE U.K.--
--MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AT WHAT'S LEFT OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
THE MANSION'S A GUTTED RUIN... *
*DESTROYED BY MR. SINISTER IN X-MEN #243 -- TK.
...BUT THE SPRAWLING RESEARCH COMPLEX BURIED BENEATH IT...
...IS IN FINE SHAPE.
WHICH IS, REGRETTABLY, RATHER MORE THAN CAN BE SAID FOR THE SUBJECT OF TODAY'S EVALUATION.
WHENEVER YOU'RE READY, CAP.
HOW'S -- THIS, SHADOWCAT?
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HIM HARD FOR HOURS, KITTY.
AREN'T YOU THROUGH YET?
SORRY, MEGGAN.
AGAIN, CAP, PLEASE.
LAST TIME.
HE LOOKS AWFULLY TIRED.
I KNOW.
HE'S STRAINING.
BUT ACCORDING TO THE MASTER PROFILE...
...THAT LAST LOAD WAS WELL WITHIN CAPTAIN BRITAIN'S STRENGTH PARAMETERS.
HE SHOULD HAVE LIFTED IT EASILY.
I'M GOING TO PUSH HIM TO HIS LIMIT.
POP

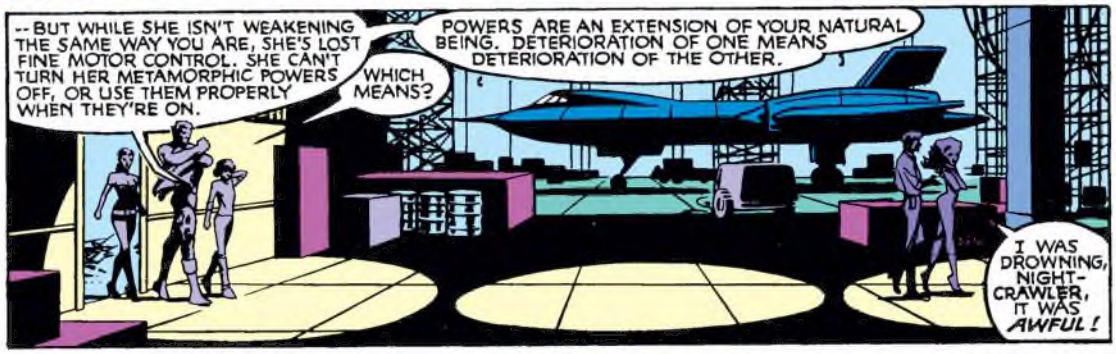

UHNNNNEF!
THIS-- IS-- INSANE!
I FEEL-- AS THOUGH-- I'M TRYING TO HOLD--
-- THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD!
NOT GOOD... NOT GOOD.
TELEMETRY'S SPIKING ACROSS THE BOARD.
HEARTBEAT'S RACING.
MASSIVE ADRENALIN SURGE.
HE'S MAKING THE ULTIMATE EFFORT!
ENOUGH!
BTHOOM


Ohhhh-KAY!
WANT A BREAK, CAP?
BE... ≥aya-hunh≤ FINE!
JUST NEED... ≥aya-hunh≤ MOMENT... ≥aya-HUNH≤ CATCH MY BREATH.
NO PROB.
NEXT, WE'RE GOING TO TEST THE SPEED OF YOUR REACTIONS.
THINK FAST, CAP!
≥WHOULF≤
SPLONNG
THAT WAS WICKED, KITTY!
MAN ASKED FOR A MOMENT, HE GOT A MOMENT.
MEGGAN-- AGILITY MEANS, IN PART, THE ABILITY TO GET OUT OF THE WAY WHEN SOMETHING COMES STRAIGHT AT YOU.
CAP COULD HAVE DUCKED OR DODGED--
--AND SHOULD HAVE, FROM PAST PERFORMANCE--
--BUT HE DIDN'T.
I STILL THINK IT WAS MEAN.
BETTER'N BEING DEAD.
YOU THINK THIS IS HUMILIATING, TRY A SESSION DOWN THE HALL IN THE DANGER ROOM.
I WASN'T READY, KITTY!
YOU THINK A BAD GUY'S GOING TO BE SO CONSIDERATE?
SORRY, CAP.
SHALL WE HAVE ANOTHER GO?
THE FLOOR!?!
I FIGURED-- WHY REPEAT MYSELF?
BESIDES, THIS GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK YOUR FLIGHT CAPABILITIES.
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP
I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY.


GGLMPHJK!
SPLASH
WHAT HO, TASK-MISTRESS?
SEE FOR YOURSELF.
YOUR EXPRESSION AUGURS ILL.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE DATA'S WORSE.
CAP, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T USE SUCH LANGUAGE...
...TO AN IMPRESSIONABLE GIRL MY AGE.
HE'S ANGRY.
AT HIMSELF MORE'N ME, NIGHTCRAWLER. HE'S SCARED, TOO. WITH GOOD REASON.
THE OBJECT HERE, CAP, IS TO RUN THE GAUNTLET...
... WITHOUT BEING PAINT-SPRITZED.
BEST OF BRITISH LUCK, BRI!
I'M AFRAID CAP ISN'T OUR ONLY PROBLEM.
WATCH THIS, THEN FOLLOW MY LEAD.
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
YEL
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
CURSE
SPLAT
SPLAT
CRASH
sputter
SLIP
TUMBLE
SPLUD!


EXPLAIN, KATZCHEN.
MEGGAN'S FUNCTIONING LIKE A CHAMELEON, TAKING ON THE PROTECTIVE COLORATION OF WHOEVER'S IN CLOSEST PROXIMITY.
IT'S TOTALLY INVOLUNTARY, KURT, SHE ISN'T EVEN AWARE SHE'S DOING IT.
I'M HOME, GUYS, MISS ME?
ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS...
...AWAy
TWISTING TERRIBLE MOMENT, FLESH FLOWING LIKE MERCURY, TWO BECOMING ONE IN FACE AND FORM, AS WITHOUT SO WITHIN, THOUGHT FROM ONE ECHOED BY THE OTHER, THEN MIRROR-IMAGE IDENTICAL BUT APART, THEN NO LONGER APART NO WAY TO TELL WHERE ONE SELF BEGINS THE OTHER ENDS...
NO!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
OW!
IT'S PERHAPS TOO HEARTY A TELEKINETIC SHOVE...
... BUT PHOENIX IS IN NO MOOD TO BE GENTLE.
NONE OF MY PSI-DEFENSES WORKED.
THEY'D LOOK AT HER AND SEE ME!
I WAS DROWNING, KITTY, IT WAS AWFUL!
MEGGAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I... I... I...
WHAT THE DEVIL IS EVERY-ONE PLAYING AT?!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, SHADOWCAT.
NO MORE TESTS -- UNTIL I GET SOME RESULTS!

THERE'S NO NICE WAY TO SAY THIS.
ALL YOUR SUPER-ABILITIES SHOW A MARKED AND PROGRESSIVE DECLINE, WITH NO APPARENT CAUSE AND NO END IN SIGHT.
SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR MEGGAN--
I COULDN'T TELL WHERE I ENDED AND SHE BEGAN.


--BUT WHILE SHE ISN'T WEAKENING THE SAME WAY YOU ARE, SHE'S LOST FINE MOTOR CONTROL. SHE CAN'T TURN HER METAMORPHIC POWERS OFF, OR USE THEM PROPERLY WHEN THEY'RE ON.
WHICH MEANS?
POWERS ARE AN EXTENSION OF YOUR NATURAL BEING. DETERIORATION OF ONE MEANS DETERIORATION OF THE OTHER.
I WAS DROWNING, NIGHT-CRAWLER, IT WAS AWFUL!

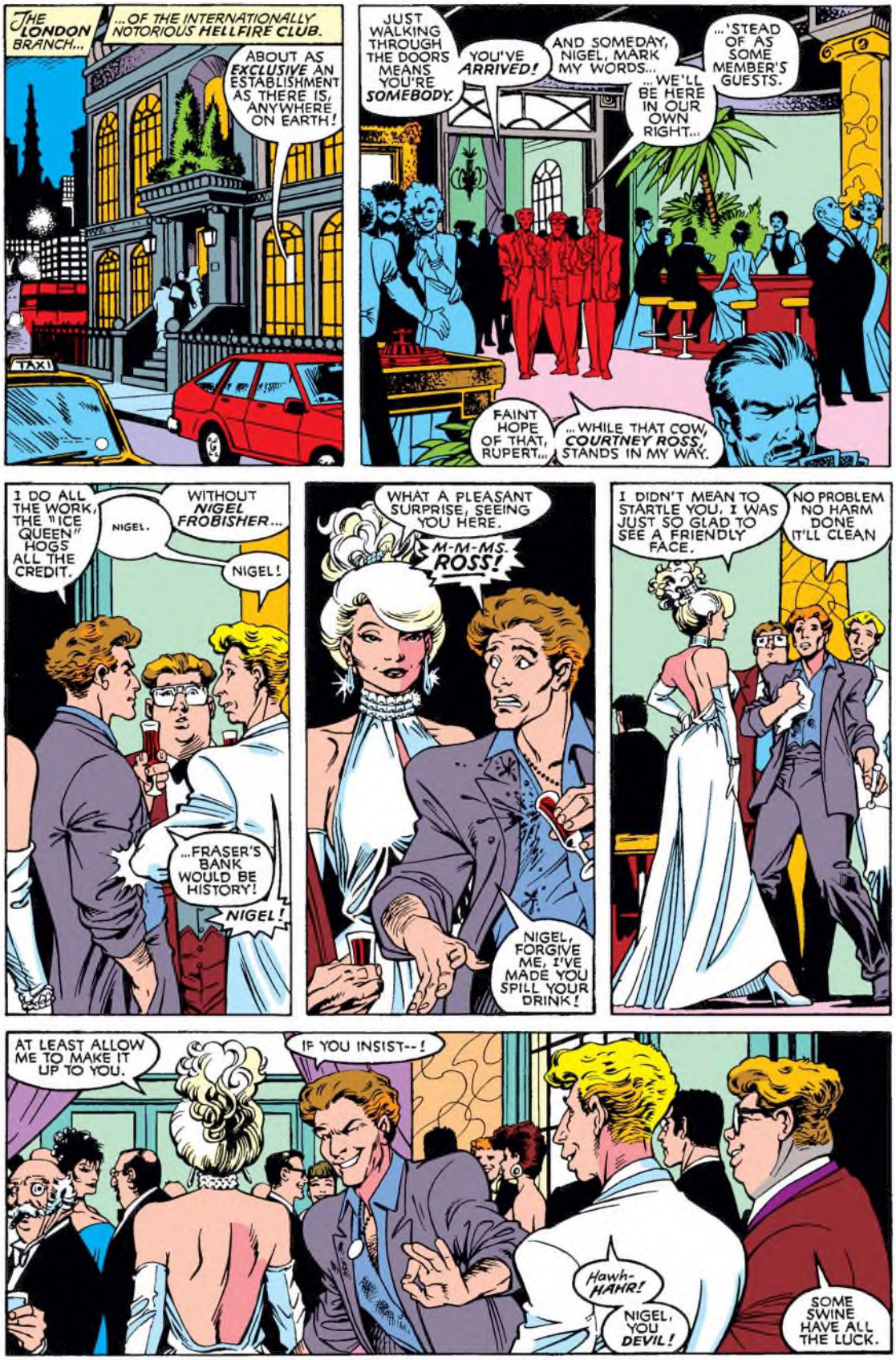
KATHERINE, ARE YOU TELLING ME I'M GOING TO DIE?
NO!
NOT EXACTLY.
BRIAN, JUST BECAUSE I'M NOT SMART ENOUGH TO FIND A CURE DOESN'T MEAN THERE ISN'T ONE!

WELL.
IF THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT...
...THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, eh?

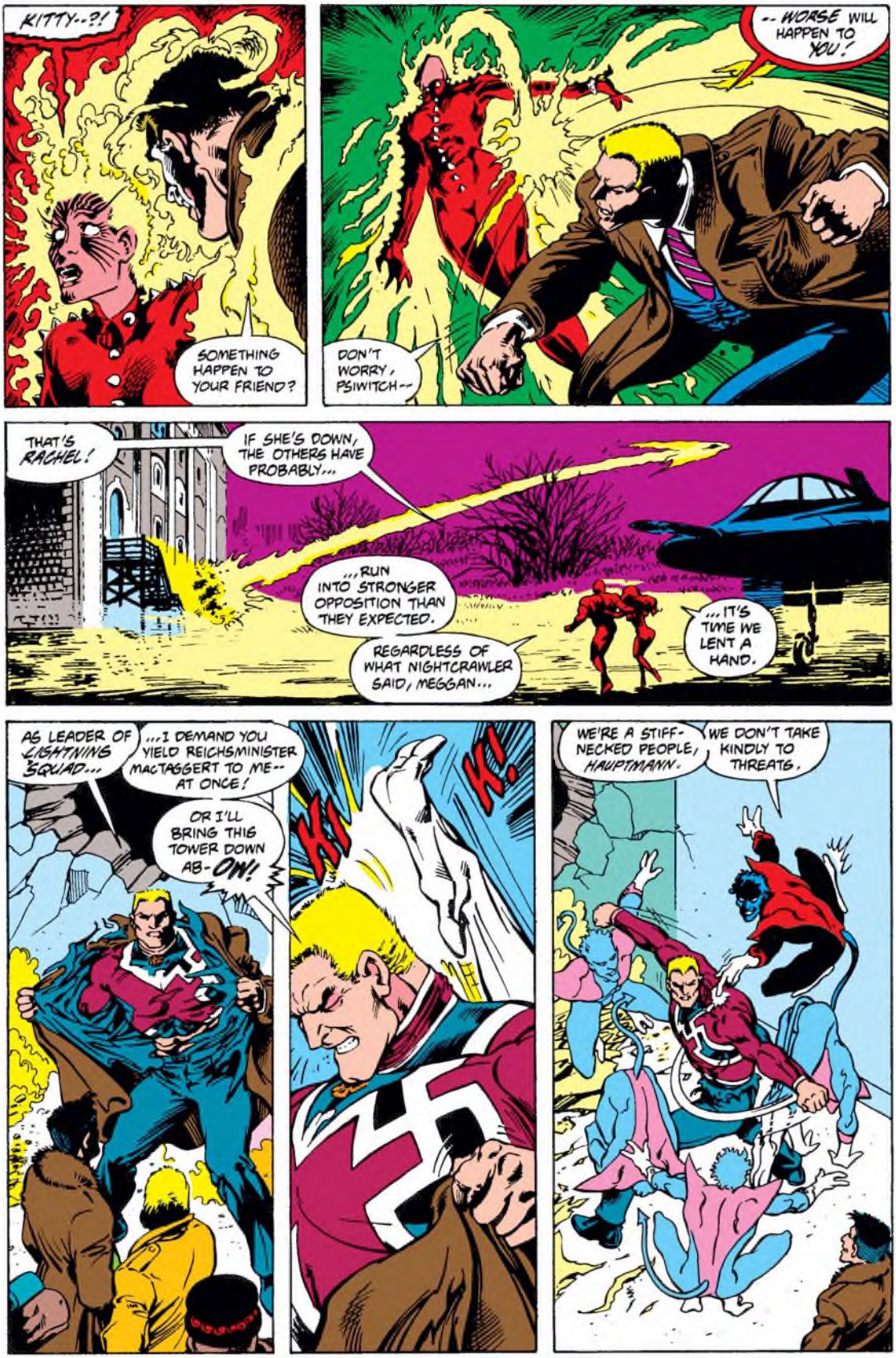
YOU MUSTN'T GIVE UP!
WHO SAYS I HAVE?
THERE'S REED RICHARDS TO CONSULT, AND MOIRA MacTAGGERT!
IF AN ANSWER EXISTS, WE'LL FIND IT!
BRNG

SCOTLAND YARD?
COMMANDER DAI THOMAS?!
JA, I REMEMBER YOU, SIR.
WHAT? WHAT?! OF COURSE! QUICK AS WE CAN!

WE'RE NEEDED IN LONDON.
THERE'S BIG TROUBLE--
--INVOLVING MOIRA MacTAGGERT!


THE LONDON BRANCH...
...OF THE INTERNATIONALLY NOTORIOUS HELLFIRE CLUB.
ABOUT AS EXCLUSIVE AN ESTABLISHMENT AS THERE IS, ANYWHERE ON EARTH!
TAXI
JUST WALKING THROUGH THE DOORS MEANS YOU'RE SOMEBODY.
YOU'VE ARRIVED!
AND SOMEDAY, NIGEL, MARK MY WORDS...
...'STEAD OF AS SOME MEMBER'S GUESTS.
...WE'LL BE HERE IN OUR OWN RIGHT...
FAINT HOPE OF THAT, RUPERT...
...WHILE THAT COW, COURTNEY ROSS, STANDS IN MY WAY.
I DO ALL THE WORK, THE "ICE QUEEN" HOGS ALL THE CREDIT.
NIGEL.
WITHOUT NIGEL FROBISHER...
NIGEL!
...FRASER'S BANK WOULD BE HISTORY!
NIGEL!
WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE, SEEING YOU HERE.
M-M-MS. ROSS!
NIGEL, FORGIVE ME, I'VE MADE YOU SPILL YOUR DRINK!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU, I WAS JUST SO GLAD TO SEE A FRIENDLY FACE.
NO PROBLEM NO HARM DONE IT'LL CLEAN
AT LEAST ALLOW ME TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
IF YOU INSIST--!
Hawh-HAHR!
NIGEL, YOU DEVIL!
SOME SWINE HAVE ALL THE LUCK.

FAMILIAR FACE, CUTIE. GOT A NAME TO GO WITH IT?
YOU'LL GET NOTHING...
...FROM HAUPTMANN, ENGLANDE!
TOUGH GUY, HUH?
SHE'S MAGNIFICENT!
NO PROBLEM--
--FOR A TELEPATH!
MEANWHILE, DOWN BELOW...
CLUMP CLUMP CLUMP
YAIEKES!
IN SUCH A RUSH, THEY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME.
WEIRDEST SENSATION, HAVING SOMEBODY'S BOOT...
...KICK RIGHT THROUGH YOUR FACE.
THINK I UNDERSTAND HOW COMMANDER THOMAS FELT.
PHASING POWER CERTAINLY HAS ITS USES.
JUST WISH I COULD TURN IT OFF EASIER.
I HATE BEING A LIVING GHOST.
BETTER BY FAR...
...THAN BEING A DEAD ONE.
GASP!?!
YOU'RE--?!!?
YES.
FORGIVE ME.


KITTY--?!
SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOUR FRIEND?
DON'T WORRY, PSIWITCH--
-- WORSE WILL HAPPEN TO YOU!
THAT'S RACHEL!
IF SHE'S DOWN, THE OTHERS HAVE PROBABLY...
...RUN INTO STRONGER OPPOSITION THAN THEY EXPECTED.
REGARDLESS OF WHAT NIGHTCRAWLER SAID, MEGGAN...
...IT'S TIME WE LENT A HAND.
AS LEADER OF LIGHTNING SQUAD...
...I DEMAND YOU YIELD REICHSMINISTER MACTAGGERT TO ME-- AT ONCE!
OR I'LL BRING THIS TOWER DOWN AB-
OW!
KI!
KI!
WE'RE A STIFF-NECKED PEOPLE, HAUPTMANN.
WE DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO THREATS.

HMNH-- SAME LOOKS AS OUR CAP...
SAME TEMPER.
BUT NOT QUITE AS SOPHISTICATED...
...A FIGHTING STYLE.
INFERNAL JACKRABBIT!
PERHAPS THEN, MEIN DOPPEL-GANGER...
...YOU'D CARE TO TEST YOUR SKILL...
...AGAINST A MORE CHALLENGING FOE?
ANOTHER ME?!?
I COULD HAVE FINISHED HIM.
PERHAPS.
BUT NOT...
...I'LL WAGER...
...WITH SUCH...
...PANACHE!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
WHAT A SHAME.
THIS "NIGHTCRAWLER" IS NOWHERE NEAR AS RESILIENT AS I.
MY MULTIPLE TELEPORTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIM.
ABOUT WHAT ONE WOULD EXPECT...
...FROM THIS WEAK, DECADENT DIMENSION.
SHALL I DO THEIR GENE POOL A SERVICE...
...AND ELIMINATE HIM FROM IT?
NOT YET, NIGHTCRAWLER!
WE MAY HAVE NEED OF THESE PRISONERS.
IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?
I'M SORRY TO BE LATE. I RAN INTO A FIREFIGHT.
YOUR AID WAS NOT REQUIRED, MEGGAN.
NOW THAT YOU'VE REJOINED THE GROUP, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.

THEN ALLOW ME TO PROVIDE...
...OUR EXIT!
KABOOM!
WE'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF THAT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
AT LAST, I MEET MY COUNTERPART.
OR RATHER, THE PATHETIC WRETCH WHO PASSES FOR HIM.
POOR RAGAMUFFIN, CAN YOUR COUNTRY NOT EVEN PROVIDE YOU A PROPER UNIFORM?
I'VE GROWN SOME SINCE LAST I WORE THIS.
IT'S NOT THE CLOTHES THAT MATTER, NAZI...
...BUT THE MAN WHO WEARS THEM.
HARDLY A "MAN" AT ALL BY MY RECKONING--
--AND IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS...
...LESS THAN A CORPSE!
NEXT
(AT LAST, SORT OF)
WIDGET!